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July  
Roxbury, June 5, 1876.

My dear Wendell:

You will see some "Centennial Reflections" of mine in The Independent of this week. It is quite probable that they will bring down upon my head some "patriotic" rials of death, seeing that "our Revolutionary sires" are shown to have been not much better than those who lived at a still earlier period. Should you happen to see any animadversions upon my article in your exchange papers, please let me have a chance to read them for my delectation. What flimsy stuff is hero-worship made of!

You have seen what an ado is making in regard to the Old South Church. Be assured, I take no interest in it; and I marvel that W. P., as a reformer and iconoclast, should have made the speech



he did for the preservation of so much brick and mortar, wood and stone - treating its removal as something almost sacrilegious, and, curiously enough, endeavoring to make a telling point out of an apocryphal statement that the first Napoleon, on crossing the Alps, spared a tree that was in his way because reference had been made to it by Julius Caesar! As every string will be pulled, far and wide, to obtain the sum required to save the old building from demolition, I suppose the effort will in the end prove successful.

The shoes you sent me are well made, and will probably answer; but I have not worn them as yet, only tried them on. Strange to say, they are one size shorter than I have ever had, but they make up in breadth. I find it rather difficult to get them <sup>on</sup> in consequence of not sufficient allowance being made for my instep. Still, I will keep them if I can.



I would enclose herewith payment for the same, if I knew the price; but Harry talks of going to New York in the course of a few days, and I will send the money by him. Also, to repay you for what you paid for expressage on the two packages you sent; for there is no reason why you should assume the expense, especially after putting you to so much trouble.

Accept my thanks for the stereoscopic views, though I feel reluctant to break the series.

Thanks, also, for the printed "Memo-randa of the Garrison Family." I wish I could aid you in your genealogical investigations. As I am still suffering, night and day, from my rheumatic knee, and measurably confined to the house (the New Zealand plaster producing no effect as yet), I have not been able to go to Salem or Rowley to consult the town records since my return home.



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You give us cause for much rejoicing in what you write us to the improved state of dear Lucy's health. May her convalescence be perfect and abiding! Let her take special care not to overtask her physical strength during this warm season. We are also glad to hear that dear Mrs. McKim is enabled to take some respite from her arduous cares by a visit to her friends. She needs it greatly.

Harry proposes that we should take away the old part of our dwelling, and build a new one, so as to double the size of the house in regard to parlour, chamber, &c. The alteration would cost not less than three thousand dollars. I do not think it would "pay," especially if the estate is not long to be retained by the family.

William's family are located at Asterville, on the Cape.

Your loving Father.